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The Main Thing Devotional

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One Thing - The Main Thing

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*"The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life—whom shall I dread?
When the wicked came upon me to devour my flesh, my enemies and foes stumbled and fell.
Though an army encamps around me, my heart will not fear; though a war breaks out against me, I will keep my trust. One thing I have asked of the LORD; this is what I desire: to dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and seek Him in His temple. For in the day of trouble He will hide me in His shelter; He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will set me high upon a rock. Then my head will be held high above my enemies around me. At His tabernacle I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD." Psalm 27:1-6*

One Thing - The Main Thing

It's the first day of classes for the fall semester - maybe your first ever in college, maybe your last semester ever, maybe you've been teaching classes on this campus for many years. What are you afraid of as we start classes today? What do you dread? Perhaps you fear nothing as you launch into this first week but instead your heart is light as a feather and full of excitement and anticipation at what all will take place this year. Nevertheless, what's going to keep you grounded throughout all the twists and turns, the ups and the downs of this year?

What keeps David grounded? Firm in his faith? Sheltered in the time of trouble?

One thing. The ***Main Thing***. Jesus.

I picture David crying out with all his heart when he declares, "One thing! One thing I've asked of the Lord. One thing I desire: to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life." This catches me off guard a little. Causes me to check myself. I desire to succeed in all I do. I desire to thrive in healthy, loving relationships. I desire to live well. I desire a parking spot close to my office. I desire to have a great first week of the school year. I desire, I desire, I desire. There are so many things I desire. How is it possible that David only desires one thing?

- Jesus had brought light into David's life.
- God brought salvation to David - both by rescuing him from a variety of circumstances but also the promise of salvation and eternal life.
- Jesus was the source of David's strength and perseverance.
- Jesus had proved Himself reliable and trustworthy and victorious so many times in the past that David had confidence in God's goodness no matter what came upon him.

"One purpose dominated David's prayer and life," one commentator describes. David had experienced God's grace, mercy, and joy and this caused him to pursue after more. He pursued after God and desired to experience more of His presence, more of His beauty - He wanted to know more about God and His ways.

It's not an evil thing for you to desire various things in your life. Many of the desires you experience are God-given, planted within your heart by a God who also desires relationships and wholeness and joy. But the question I want to ask you today is this: what is your *one* desire? What is the thing you desire *most*? What is the *main* desire of your life?

Friend, Jesus is your light when you find yourself in a dark place spiritually, mentally, emotionally.

Jesus is the stronghold of your life - within Him you will find protection against attack.

When it feels like the enemy has you encircled, Jesus is your victory! Fear not!

When a battle rages within you, Jesus is your peace! You can trust in Him!

As you begin this new day, new week, new semester, new year may you pursue after the God who relentlessly pursues after you and make The Main Thing the actual main thing in your life.

Reflection & Upcoming Events:

- If Jesus is your one desire but you need help in reorganizing your priorities or understanding how to better walk with God, let us know. Your Chaplain's Office is here to serve you, here to offer spiritual care however we can. The Chaplain's Office team is comprised of Anna Bennett, Associate Chaplain; Lindsey Haffner, Assistant Chaplain; Melissa Moore, uQuest Director; and Christian Bunch, Student Missions Director. We support a team of more than 35 student leaders we call Campus Ministries who lead programs such as Vespers, Renewal, The Experience Sabbath School, etc. as well as ministry initiatives such as LifeGroups and Dorm Chaplaincy. The offices of uQuest Missions and Student Missions are also housed under the umbrella of the Chaplain's Office.
- Join us for the first Vespers of the year this **Friday at 7:30pm in the University Church** with our speaker **President David Smith**.
- Immediately following Vespers, join us in the new wing of the University Church for **Afterglow!**
- Engage in rich conversation at **The Experience Sabbath School Sabbath morning from 10:30-11:30am** in the University Church fellowship hall.
- Get involved! Mark your calendars for **Ministry Expo on Friday September 6** immediately following vespers where you can sign up to be engaged in a variety of ministry opportunities!

-Anna Bennett